

## **Amended Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

## **Listing of Claims**

1.(currently amended) A method for managing latency comprising:

receiving data from high-order synchronous transport module (STM) and synchronous transport signal (STS) sources and low-order tributary unit (TU) and virtual tributary (VT) sources;

providing a provisioning bit for each output; and

~~adjusting a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit such that high-order and low-order outputs are synchronized.~~

synchronizing high-order and low-order outputs by adjusting a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining an adjustment for the pointer based on a predetermined delay.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said adjusting the pointer includes adjusting the pointer by a predetermined number of time slots.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

assembling synchronized outputs.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said adjusting step comprises:

adjusting the pointer such that the high-order sources incur less delay than low-order sources.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said providing a provisioning bit includes storing the provisioning bit in a connection memory.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said adjusting a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit includes adjusting the pointer when the provisioning bit is set.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
setting the provisioning bit for low-order sources.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said adjusting a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit includes not adjusting the pointer when the provisioning bit is not set.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:  
setting the provisioning bit for high-order sources.

11. (currently amended) A computer program product tangible embodied on a computer readable medium, for provisioning cross-connects in network switching environment comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

receive data from high-order synchronous transport module (STM) and synchronous transport signal (STS) sources and low-order tributary unit (TU) and virtual tributary (VT) sources;

store the data received in a memory for subsequent output;

~~provide a provisioning bit for each output associated with a memory; and~~

~~adjust a pointer for the low order sources based on the provisioning bit such that high-order and low order outputs are synchronized.~~

synchronize low-order and high-order outputs by adjusting a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit.

12. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

determine an adjustment for the pointer based on a predetermined delay.

13. (original) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

adjust the pointer by a predetermined number of time slots.

14. (original) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

assemble synchronized outputs from the memory.

15. (original) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

adjust the pointer to synchronize the output of the low-order and high-order sources, wherein the high-order sources incur less delay to pass through the memory than low-order sources.

16. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

store the provisioning bit in a connection memory.

17. (original) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

adjust a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit includes adjusting the pointer when the provisioning bit is set.

18. (original) The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

adjust a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit includes not adjusting the pointer when the provisioning bit is not set.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus including:

~~a memory for storing a provisioning bit for each output;~~

a first circuit configured to receive data from high-order synchronous transport module (STM) and synchronous transport signal (STS) sources and low-order tributary unit (TU) and virtual tributary (VT) sources;

a memory for storing the data received for subsequent output;

a connection memory for storing a provisioning bit for each output;

a second circuit configured to synchronize the low-order and high order outputs by adjusting a pointer for the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit adjust a pointer for

~~the low-order sources based on the provisioning bit such that high-order and low-order outputs are synchronized.~~

20.(original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the second circuit is configured to adjust the pointer by a predetermined number of time slots.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the second circuit is configured to adjust the pointer to synchronize the output of the high-order and low-order sources, wherein the high-order sources incur less delay to pass through the memory than low-order sources.

22. (canceled)